

PREVENTING SPREAD OF INFECTION IN WV COMMUNITIES

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health (BPH) continues to respond to the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19) in West Virginia. BPH is working closely with communities, state agencies, local and federal partners to monitor the ongoing risk of COVID-19 and ensure the health and protection of all individuals in West Virginia.

To help prevent spread of COVID-19, mass transit providers should ensure staff continue to perform routine cleaning procedures and consider high-risk areas where more frequent cleaning and disinfection is warranted.

COMMON SYMPTOMS OF COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath

PERSON-TO-PERSON TRANSMISSION

- Occurs via small droplets from the nose or mouth of the infected person when they cough, sneeze, or exhale.
- Virus can remain on surfaces for a limited time period. Although likely less common, transmission may occur from touching contaminated surfaces and then touching your eyes, nose or mouth.

GENERAL PREVENTION

- Learn about COVID-19 from reputable sources.
- Maintain physical distance of at least 6 feet between yourself and others.
- Encourage proper handwashing.
- Clean and sanitize surfaces often.
- Do not share food, drinks, etc.
- Wear cloth face coverings.
- Stay home if you feel sick.
- Isolate sick individuals.

EFFECTIVE DISINFECTANTS

- **Chlorine Bleach:** Mix 1/3 cup of chlorine bleach per 1-gallon of water and use promptly. Allow 1 minute of contact time and then rinse with water. Use for stainless steel, food/mouth contact items, tile floors, nonporous surfaces, counters, sinks and toilets.
- **Other Disinfectants:** To determine if a product is effective against COVID-19, review the product label or product specification sheet and ensure it states “EPA-approved emerging viral pathogen claims.” You may also search the product name in the [Environmental Protection Agency’s registered product database](#)

ROUTINE CLEANING OF TRANSPORTATION SETTINGS

- Soiled and frequently touched surfaces can be reservoirs for pathogens, resulting in continued transmission to people.
- Extra attention should be paid to surfaces that are touched most often by different individuals.
- As part of standard infection control practices, routine cleaning should be continued:
 1. Clean high contact surfaces that are touched by different people, such as light switches, handrails and doorknobs/handles.
 2. Dust and wet mop or auto-scrub floors.
 3. Vacuum entryways and high traffic areas.
 4. Remove trash regularly.
 5. Clean restrooms regularly.
 6. Wipe heating and cooling vents.
 7. Clean spills.

HIGH-RISK AREAS FOR CLEANING

Consider these areas for frequent cleaning and disinfection:

- Seats and handrails
- Turnstiles and fare boxes
- Door handles and push plates
- Chairs and tables
- Bathroom faucets
- Light switches
- Equipment handles (e.g., wheelchairs, hand carts)
- Buttons on vending machines and elevators
- Desks and counters
- Shared telephones, desktops, keyboards and mice

EMPLOYEE HEALTH GUIDELINES

- **Wash your hands** often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- If soap and water are not readily available, **use a hand sanitizer containing at least 60% alcohol.** Cover hands and rub them together until dry.
- **Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth** with unwashed hands.



USE OF FACE MASKS/COVERINGS

- CDC recommends the use of a simple cloth face mask or covering as a voluntary public health measure in public settings where other social distancing measures are difficult to maintain.
- Launder reusable face masks/coverings before each daily use.
- CDC offers [additional information on the use of face masks/coverings](#), including instructions on how to make them.
- Individuals should be careful not to touch their eyes, nose, and mouth when removing face masks/coverings and wash hands immediately after removing.

NOTE: The cloth face coverings recommended by CDC are not surgical masks or N-95 respirators. Those are critical supplies that must continue to be reserved for healthcare workers and other medical first responders, as recommended by current CDC guidance.

Questions and concerns can also be directed to the 24/7, toll-free COVID-19 information hotline:

1-800-887-4304

